

Docket: 2865  
(203-3505PCTUS)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**APPLICANT(S):** Frank J. Viola, et al      **EXAMINER:** To Be Assigned  
**SERIAL NO.:** To Be Assigned      **GROUP UNIT:** To Be Assigned  
**FILED:** Concurrently Herewith  
**INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.:** PCT/US2003/031649  
**INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE:** 6 October 2003  
**PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED:** 4 October 2002  
**TITLE:** ANGLED SURGICAL FASTENER APPARATUS

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir/Madam:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper..

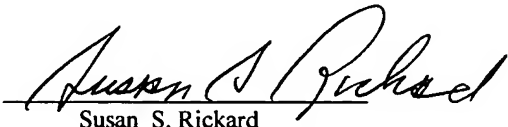
**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 3 of this paper.

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**CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.10**

I hereby certify that this correspondence and the documents referred to as enclosed are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on date below in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Mail Label Number EU799732847US addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Patent Application, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: 3/20/05

  
Susan S. Rickard